

What is claimed is:

1           1.       A method of performing communications in a wireless network,  
2 comprising:  
3               determining if a mobile station is subscribed to a first level of service or a  
4 second level of service;  
5               communicating packet-switched traffic; and  
6               releasing a logical connection between the mobile station and a wireless  
7 access system according to a first procedure if subscribed to the first level of service and  
8 according to a second, different procedure if subscribed to the second level of service.

1           2.       The method of claim 1, wherein the determining, exchanging, and  
2 releasing acts are performed by the mobile station.

1           3.       The method of claim 1, wherein releasing the logical connection  
2 comprises releasing a temporary block flow.

1           4.       The method of claim 3, wherein releasing the temporary block flow  
2 comprises releasing an uplink temporary block flow.

1           5.       The method of claim 3, wherein exchanging the packet-switched traffic  
2 comprises carrying the packet-switched traffic in one or more channels defined by a  
3 protocol selected from the group consisting of a General Packet Radio Service (GPRS)  
4 protocol, an Enhanced GPRS protocol, and a Global System for Mobile/Enhanced Data  
5 Rate for Global Evolution Radio Access Network (GERAN) protocol.

1           6.       The method of claim 1, further comprising:  
2               providing a timer; and  
3               if the mobile station is subscribed to the first level of service, starting the  
4 timer after detecting there is no further data to send,  
5               wherein releasing the logical connection is performed after expiration of  
6 the timer.

1           7.       The method of claim 6, wherein if the mobile station is subscribed to the  
2 second level of service, the logical connection is released in response to detecting there is  
3 no further data to send without use of the timer.

1           8.       The method of claim 7, wherein detecting there is no further data to send  
2 is performed by detecting if a send buffer is empty or is about to become empty.

1           9.       A system for providing communications in a wireless network,  
2 comprising:  
3               a controller operable to determine if a mobile station is subscribed to a  
4 first level of service or a second level of service; and wherein  
5               the controller operable to further determine when data transmission to the  
6 mobile station is about to end, the controller adapted to generate filler data for sending to  
7 the mobile station if the mobile station is subscribed to the first level of service to enable  
8 a wireless connection to the mobile station to be maintained.

1           10.      The system of claim 9, wherein the controller is adapted to not generate  
2 filler data for sending to the mobile station if the mobile station is subscribed to the  
3 second level of service.

1           11.      The system of claim 9, further comprising a timer to define a time period  
2 during which the filler data is generated.

1           12.      The system of claim 11, wherein the controller is adapted to stop sending  
2 the filler data after the timer expires.

1           13.      The system of claim 9, wherein the controller comprises a serving General  
2 Packet Radio Service support node control module.

1           14.    The system of claim 9, wherein the controller is adapted to determine end  
2 of data transmission by determining if a send buffer in a wireless access system is empty  
3 or about to be empty.

1           15.    The system of claim 14, further comprising a storage module to store  
2 information pertaining to one or more characteristics of the send buffer,  
3                   the controller adapted to determine if the send buffer is empty or about to  
4 be empty based on the one or more characteristics.

1           16.    The system of claim 15, wherein the one or more characteristics comprise  
2 one or more of a size of the send buffer and a leaky rate of the send buffer.

1           17.    The system of claim 9, wherein the wireless connection comprises a  
2 temporary block flow.

1           18.    An article comprising at least a storage medium containing instructions  
2 that when executed cause a system to:  
3                   send packet-switched data to a wireless access system for communicating  
4 to a mobile station;  
5                   determine if a send buffer in the wireless access system to store the data is  
6 about to become empty; and  
7                   if the send buffer is about to become empty, send filler data to the wireless  
8 access system to maintain a connection between the wireless access system and the  
9 mobile station.

1           19.    The article of claim 18, wherein the instructions when executed cause the  
2 system to send filler data to maintain a temporary block flow

1           20.    The article of claim 18, wherein the instructions when executed cause the  
2 system to further start a timer to provide a time period during which the filler data is to be  
3 sent to the wireless access system.

1           21.     The article of claim 18, wherein the instructions when executed cause the  
2 system to further determine if the mobile station is subscribed to a first service level and  
3 to send the filler data in response to determining the mobile station is subscribed to the  
4 first service level.

1           22.     A mobile station, comprising:  
2                 an interface block to a wireless link to a wireless access system;  
3                 a controller adapted to determine if the mobile station is subscribed to a  
4 first level of service or a second level of service,  
5                 the controller being adapted to release a logical connection on the wireless  
6 link if subscribed to the first level of service and according to a second, different  
7 procedure if subscribed to the second level of service.

1           23.     The mobile station of claim 22, wherein the logical connection is defined  
2 by a packet-switched wireless protocol selected from the group consisting of a General  
3 Packet Radio Service protocol, an Enhanced General Packet Radio Service protocol, and  
4 a Global System for Mobile/Enhanced Data Rate for Global Evolution Radio Access  
5 Network protocol.